

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A blade has a hard, thin layer of ceramic on one side, so that when the blade is sharpened on the other side the very hard ceramic is disposed at the cutting edge. The ceramic (for example, TiN) may be deposited by vacuum deposition. The surface onto which the ceramic is deposited is specular (mirror-like), so that it is flat or smooth on the order of a wavelength of light. The ceramic layer, which is very thin, takes the form of a flat plate, when viewed on a microscopic scale. The ceramic forms a cutting plate at the edge of the blade.

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